



PARKS, RECREATION AND OPEN SPACE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SPEAKERS BUREAU REPORT May 2003

This report contains an Executive Summary and a detailed summary of the questionnaire results.

I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

A. Introduction

The Speakers Bureau was established as part of an extensive public involvement program designed to include Eugene residents in developing a Park, Recreation, and Open Space Comprehensive Plan for the next 20 years. City staff met with various community groups to obtain their perceptions about recreation opportunities and to solicit their ideas regarding future park and facility improvements.

B. Community Groups

Numbers in parentheses indicate the number of people attending from each group.

Active Bethel Citizens (23)	KIDSPORTS (12)
Amazon Neighbors (25)	Lane Independent Living Alliance (25)
ASLA (40)	Laurel Hill Valley Neighbors (35)
Bethel Latino Group (40)	Looking Glass (10)
Cal Young Neighbors (30)	NAACP (10)
Chamber of Commerce (30)	Planning (20)
Crest Drive Citizens (30)	Pop Warner Football (11)
Delta Rotary (65)	Public Works Parks & Open Space (80)
Downtown Eugene Management Inc. (15)	Recreation Division (30)
Downtown Initiative for Visual Art (14)	Runners "Hash House Harriers" (15)
Downtown Neighborhood Association (15)	Santa Clara Community Organization (15)
Emerald Council for the Blind (12)	Self Help for Hard of Hearing (50)
Emerald Valley Little League (16)	SILVI (10)
Eugene Tree Foundation (8)	Softball Advisory Meeting (11)
Fairmont Neighbors (60)	Southeast Neighbors (40)
Far West Neighbors (5)	Stroke Club (24)
First Baptist Church (Moms Group) (10)	Trainsong Neighborhood (25)
Friendly Neighbors (14)	UO Landscape Architecture (50)
Harlow Neighbors (35)	Western Rivers Girl Scouts Council (18)
Head Injury Support Group (10)	Whilamut CPC (18)
Homebuilders Association (18)	Whiteaker Community Council (7)
Jefferson/Westside Neighbors (20)	YMCA (34)

C. Overview

Forty-four presentations were made to community groups between November 2002 and April 2003. In total, 1085 people attended. After each presentation, attendees were asked to fill out a questionnaire. A total of 751 completed questionnaires were received.

This report describes the questionnaire findings. For each question, N equals the total number of responses to the question. In cases where multiple responses were allowed, N is greater than the number of survey respondents (751). Because the questionnaire was not administered to a random sample of respondents, the data from the questionnaire cannot be used to make generalizations about the entire population. The data are unique to the respondents who completed the questionnaire.

D. Key Findings

The following key findings emerged from the questionnaires:

- Over 99% of respondents feel that **parks, recreation services and open space** are **very important** or **important** to Eugene's quality of life.
- Nearly 98% of respondents believe that parks, open spaces, and recreation services provide **benefits** to the community. These benefits include: **provide opportunities to enjoy nature/outdoors** (25.9%), **connect people together, building stronger families and neighborhoods** (13.3%), and **protect the natural environment** (13.1%).
- Seventy-seven percent of respondents believe that the City of Eugene should be a **provider** of recreation services, not a facilitator or a referral agency.
- Respondents identified the following as the top three groups in need of more or better recreation services: **middle school youth 12-14** (14.9%), **high school youth 15-18** (14.0%), and **seniors 55 and over** (12.5%).
- Over 75% of respondents would like to see recreation programs increased, including **outdoor/environmental programs** (23.1%), **special events** (17.2%), and **before and after school programs** (15.5%).
- Eugene's parks can be improved by **upgrading/completing existing parks** (28.3%), **acquiring parkland for future development** (24.9%), and **developing additional smaller, close-to-home neighborhood parks** (22.1%).
- According to respondents, the top two priorities for improving Eugene's natural areas are **acquiring more natural areas** (24.9%) and **improving habitat in existing natural areas and removing invasive species** (23.7%).
- Sixty-four percent of respondents think that Eugene needs more recreation elements. In open-ended responses, the following facilities were listed most frequently: **outdoor aquatic facilities, including swimming pools and spray parks** (106), **multi-use trails** (76), **disc golf** (56), and **indoor swimming pools** (51).
- Over 85% of respondents were **satisfied** or **very satisfied** with the level of park, open space, and facility maintenance.
- According to the comments in open-ended responses, the three most needed improvements to parks, open space, and recreation include: **improve existing parks and open space** (308), **provide additional parks and open space** (213), and **improve/provide additional recreation programs** (148).



II. QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

This section provides question-by-question summary of the questionnaire results.

Question 1: How important are parks, recreation services and open space to Eugene's quality of life? (Please circle only one number.)

85.5% Very Important
13.7% Important
0.3% Not Very Important
0.0% Not Important
0.5% No response
N = 751

Question 2a: Do you believe that parks, open space and recreation services provide benefits to the community? (If you answer yes, please go on to 2b; if you answer no or don't know, go on to question 3.)

97.5% Yes
0.5% Don't Know
0.1% No
1.9% No response
N = 746

Question 2b: Which of the following benefits of parks, open space and recreation services are most important to you? (Please check your top two choices.)

25.9% Provide opportunities to enjoy nature/outdoors
13.3% Connect people together, building stronger families neighborhoods
13.1% Protect the natural environment
12.7% Improve health and wellness
10.3% Promote youth development
10.0% Enhance community image and sense of place
7.0% Help seniors and disabled people remain active
4.2% Provide opportunities for lifelong learning
3.6% Provide cultural opportunities
N = 1823



Question 3a: Do you believe the City has a role in providing recreation services for the community? (If you answer yes, please go on to 3b; if you answer no or don't know, go on to question 4.)

95.2% Yes
2.1% Don't Know
0.8% No
1.9% No Response
N = 745

Question 3b: What role is most appropriate for the City to play in providing recreation services? (Please check one.)

77.3% Provider
20.4% Facilitator
2.2% Referral Agency
N = 719

Question 4a: In response to budget cuts, the City of Eugene has reduced recreation services during the past 5 years from a comprehensive program serving all ages to a focus on youth services. In your opinion, are certain groups in the City of Eugene in need of more or better recreation services? (If you answer yes, please go on to 4b; if you answer no or don't know, go on to question 5.)

68.8% Yes
20.5% Don't Know
8.2% No
2.6% No Response
N = 704

Question 4b: Which groups need more or better recreation services in Eugene? (Please check all that apply.)

14.9% Middle School youth 12-14
14.0% High School youth 15-18
12.5% Seniors 55 and over
11.8% Elementary School youth 6-11
11.4% People with disabilities



10.5% Adults 25-54
8.7% Preschoolers up to age 5
8.4% People from diverse cultures
7.7% Adults 19-25
N = 1915

Question 5a: Do you think recreation programs should be increased? (If you answer yes, please go on to 5b; if you answer no or don't know, go on to question 6.)

75.6% Yes
13.2% Don't Know
7.7% No
3.4% No Response
N = 725

Question 5b: What types of recreation programs would you like to see increased? (Please check your top two choices.)

23.1% Outdoor/Environmental programs
17.2% Special events (concerts in the park, festivals)
15.5% Before and after school programs
12.4% Sports (competitive and recreational)
11.8% Arts (performing, visual, cultural)
10.2% Aquatic programs
9.8% Lifelong learning (classes)
N = 1343

Question 6a: In your opinion, can Eugene's parks be improved? (If you answer yes, please go on to 6b; if you answer no or don't know, go on to question 7.)

83.2% Yes
8.7% Don't Know
3.2% No
4.9% No Response
N = 721



Question 6b: How can Eugene's parks be improved? (Please check your top two choices.)

28.3% Upgrade/complete existing parks
24.9% Acquire parkland for future development
22.1% Develop additional smaller, close to home neighborhood parks
16.5% Develop more large, multi-use community parks like Amazon Park
8.3% Develop another metropolitan park serving the entire region like Alton Baker Park
N = 1171

Question 7a: In your opinion, could Eugene's natural areas be improved? (If you answer yes, please go on to 7b; if you answer no or don't know, go on to question 8.)

80.1% Yes
10.5% No
9.4% No Response
N = 715

Question 7b: What are your top two priorities for improving Eugene's natural areas? (Please check your top two choices.)

24.9% Acquire more natural areas
23.7% Improve habitat in existing natural areas and remove invasive species
19.2% Provide more passive recreation opportunities, such as trails and benches
15.6% Increase volunteer participation in habitat restoration and maintenance
10.1% Inform community members about how their actions affect the environment
6.5% Provide more displays describing values and features of natural areas
N = 1259

Question 8a: Do you think Eugene needs more recreation elements, such as recreation centers, pools, play areas, sports fields, etc? (If you answer yes, please go on to 8b; if you answer no or don't know, go on to question 9.)

64.0% Yes
17.6% No
14.4% Don't Know
4.0% No Response
N = 728



Question 8b: What recreation elements are most needed in Eugene today? Please list your ideas in each of the categories that follow:

Outdoor Recreation Elements (330)

- Aquatic facilities, including swimming pools and spray parks (106)
- Multi-use trails (76)
- Dog parks (38)
- Children's play areas (29)
- Mountain bike trails
- Other
 - Bike paths
 - Nature trails
 - Off-leash trails
 - Natural areas

Sports Facilities (271)

- Disc Golf (56)
- Sports Complex (38)
- Soccer Fields (27)
- Basketball Courts (24)
- Skateparks (24)
- Other
 - Multi-use athletic fields
 - Softball fields
 - Baseball fields
 - Golf

Indoor Community Buildings (226)

- Indoor swimming pools (51)
- Youth centers/programs (41)
- Community centers (39)
- Gyms (16)
- Senior Centers
- Other
 - Hot tubs
 - Warm-water pool (i.e., Easter Seals)
 - Indoor soccer

Question 9: How would you rate your overall satisfaction with the level of park, open space and facility maintenance? (Please check only one number.)

70.7% Satisfied

14.8% Very satisfied

12.4% Not very satisfied

2.1% Not satisfied

N = 709



Question 10: Of all the improvements discussed in this questionnaire, what three parks, open space and recreation improvements are most needed in Eugene today? (Please list your choices. They do not have to be in priority order.)

Respondents cited dozens of various improvements to parks, open space, and recreation. These comments were organized into specific categories and also listed individually. As improvements by category, the most frequently mentioned items are shown as sub-bullets. As a list of individual improvements, the seven most frequent responses are noted. The numbers in parenthesis indicate how many people mentioned a particular statement.

Improvements by Category

- Improve existing parks and open space (308)
 - Alton Baker Park (31)
 - Amazon (25)
 - Laurelwood (16)
 - Skinner Butte (16)
 - Hendricks (15)
 - General improvements
 - Safety upgrades
 - Play area improvements
 - Renovations to existing pools
- Provide additional parks and open space (213)
 - Natural areas (76)
 - General parks, open space, and recreation areas (57)
 - Neighborhood parks (54)
 - Community parks
 - Dog parks
 - Metropolitan parks
 - Linear parks
- Improve existing and/or provide additional recreation programs (148)
 - Programs for youth (39)
 - Special events, including concerts and cultural events (32)
 - General recreation program improvements (22)
 - Environmental education and outdoor programs (19)
 - Programs for people with disabilities
 - Programs for seniors
- Improve existing/provide additional sports facilities (114)
 - Providing general improvements to sports facilities (25)
 - Developing a sports complex (20)
 - Developing additional disc golf opportunities (18)
 - Improving sports fields
 - Skateparks
 - Soccer fields
 - Softball and baseball fields
 - Basketball courts
- Improve parks, open space, and facilities maintenance (109)
 - Improving and/or maintaining the general maintenance of facilities (59)
 - Addressing the issue of invasive species (28)
 - Providing additional habitat conservation and protection (21)
 - Improving the condition and/or maintenance of restrooms (8)
 - Improving trail maintenance (7)



- Improve existing/provide additional trails (108)
 - General improvements (69)
 - Bike paths (21)
 - Mountain bike trails (18)
- Provide additional aquatic facilities (87)
 - Pools (55)
 - General aquatic facilities (13)
 - Spray parks (10)
 - Hot tubs (9)

Individual Improvements

- Provide additional natural areas (76)
- Improve trails (69)
- Improve parks, recreation & open space maintenance (59)
- Provide additional parks and open space (57)
- Provide additional aquatic facilities (55)
- Provide additional neighborhood parks (54)
- Provide additional community and recreation centers (45)

Question 11: My age is:

20.7% 45-54
 20.3% 35-44
 18.6% 25-34
 12.8% 55-64
 9.4% 18-24
 9.4% 65+
 1.3% 15-17
 0.9% 10-14
 6.5% No answer
 N = 743

Question 12: My gender is:

47.0% Female
 44.1% Male
 8.9% No answer
 N = 741



Question 13: My ethnicity is:

77.4% White
3.6% Other
2.8% Hispanic
2.5% American Indian/Alaskan Native
2.7% Asian/Pacific Islander
1.7% Black
9.2% No answer
N = 749

Prepared by MIG, Inc., Eugene, Oregon

